

IV. SUMMARY OF THE PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The following discussion presents a summary of the results of the Phase I Archaeological Survey conducted for the Choptank Road project APE.

A. Background Research

Prior to field investigations, a review of available documentation was conducted with the intent to identify any previously documented archaeological sites within the project APE. This background research did not identify any previously documented archaeological sites within the project APE; however, several of the findings resulting from the background research warrant discussion.

Although various cultural resources have been performed in the general area (e.g., Emory and Archibald 2001; Kellogg 1993), the closest archaeological site recorded with the DESHPO at the time of the background research was 7NC-F-14. Situated on a high terrace that overlooks the on the north side of Back Creek, 7NC-F-14 lies roughly 300 feet west of the project APE. Currently, diagnosis of 7NC-F-14 remains limited however, the site is believed to be the remains of a small basecamp that dates to the Woodland I Period.

Documentary research also revealed that the historic period of St. Georges Hundred began quite early. By 1825, Middletown was well established as a crossroads town of the land route between Appoquinimink Creek and Bohemia Landing. By 1850, various farmsteads could be found around its outskirts. Nineteenth century maps of the area depict various structures along both sides of Choptank Road as well as along Bethel Church and Bunker Hill Roads.

Although several of the structures depicted on historic maps are still standing and the properties continue to function as farmsteads, others are no longer extant. Until the Choptank Road survey, remains of these since razed structures had not yet been discovered in the archaeological record.

A review of historic mapping (Rea and Price 1849; Beers 1868; Hopkins 1881; Baist 1893) identified twelve no longer extant structures that once stood along Choptank Road within the immediate vicinity of the project. Based on comparison of historic and modern mapping, the general locations of these locations are projected as follows. Unless specified, for brevity, only their Beers' (1868) notation is listed below.

- west side of Choptank Road, ~1,700' north of Back Creek: "S.H" (schoolhouse)
- west side of Choptank Road, ~300' south of Back Creek: no denotation
- east side of Choptank Road, ~1,000' north of Back Creek: "H. Clayton
- east side of Choptank Road, ~1,600 south Churchtown Road: "Choptank-J. Clayton"
- east side of Choptank Road, ~2,700 south Churchtown Road: "Choptank-J. Clayton"
- east side of Choptank Road, ~1,500' south of Old Schoolhouse Road: "J. Clayton"

- west side of Choptank Road, ~2,500' south of Old Schoolhouse Road: two structures, one is attributed to "W Stoops". Both structures may be associated with extant structure N-108.
- southwest corner of Choptank Road/Bohemia Mill Road intersection: "Col. J. Clayton"
- southeast corner of Choptank Road/Bohemia Mill Road intersection: N-5147 (razed). In previous studies, N-5157 was attributed to "J. W. Callahan".
- west side of Choptank Rd., 1600' south of Bohemia Mill Road: two structures, "M.D. Wilson" (Baist 1893).
- east side of Choptank Road, ~2,500 south of Bohemia Mill Road: "J. W. Callahan", may be associated with extant structure N-5157.
- west side of Choptank Road, ~6,000 south of Bohemia Mill Road: "T.R.H"
- west side of Choptank Road, ~7,500 north of Bunker Hill Road: two structures "T.M."

B. Archaeological Research Design

Using the results of the background research and observations made during a preliminary windshield inspection, a comprehensive research design was developed for the Phase I Archaeological Survey of Choptank Road.

The primary goal of the Phase I archaeological survey was to identify any known or potential archaeological resources within the limits of the project APE as implied by the current design scheme. To achieve this overall goal, several project-specific objectives were identified. Specifically, these objectives were:

- to conduct systematic subsurface testing within the project APE to confirm the presence or absence of subsurface archaeological deposits.
- to provide preliminary assessments of any encountered archaeological sites (e.g., projected site boundaries, represented data categories, and preliminary assessments for National Register eligibility).
- to identify supplemental studies (e.g., formal, extensive evaluation studies or mitigation studies) that may be warranted at any identified archaeological sites.
- to develop appropriate recommendations for the proposed project and any identified sites.
- to provide supplemental data that can be used to enhance and update current predictive archaeological models (e.g., Custer 1990).
- to provide a comprehensive archaeological assessment of the Choptank Road project APE that will also assist the DelDOT in future planning activities.

To achieve the overall goal and project objectives, several factors were taken into consideration to establish a framework for conducting the research. Information derived from background research as well as reviews of regional cultural resource management plans (Custer 1986, 1990,

1994; De Cunzo and Catts 1990; De Cunzo and Garcia 1992) and current Delaware archaeological predictive models (Custer 1986, 1989, 1994; De Cunzo and Catts 1990) was used to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project APE and to identify areas to be targeted by the field investigations. Overall, the research design was intended to serve as a means for collecting data that would assist in better understanding the prehistoric and historic uses of the project APE. This research design also included an assessment of the archeological sensitivity of the project APE.

Potential for Native American Archaeological Sites. Given its environmental setting and proximity to known sites, the general Choptank Road project APE was considered to have the potential for contain Native American archaeological sites. The project area includes various wetland settings that resemble those once utilized by Native Americans. Situated on a gently rolling plain, the project area is crossed by several waterways. In addition to Back Creek and its associated tributaries, several small, unnamed streams associated with Great Bohemia Creek and Sandy Branch also found in the immediate vicinity of the project area. Considering the diversity of floral and faunal species that would have been found in these resource-rich settings, it is also quite likely that Native Americans would have also frequented the general area. Portions of the project area that would have been regarded as favorable settlement locales include well-drained lands surrounding waterways, especially those situated on terrace, knoll, or upland settings.

Based on current models of archaeological research, Native American site type expectancies for the general project area may range from small procurement/processing locales to base camp sites. Of the temporal contexts developed for Delaware, the general vicinity of the project area is most apt to contain sites of the Archaic through Woodland II Periods (Custer 1986, 1989, 1994).

Potential for Historic Archaeological Resources. As discussed previously, a review of historic documents revealed that by the middle of the nineteenth century, several no longer extant structures stood along Choptank, Bethel Church, and Bunker Hill Roads. While some of these structures are still extant, other have since been razed. Given the long history of the Middletown area, the aforementioned map depictions, as well as the presence of extant historic architectural properties along Choptank Road, Choptank Road project APE was concluded to have a medium to high probability for containing historic archaeological resources.

Based on the historic development of the area, it was anticipated that the general vicinity of the project area is most apt to yield sites relevant to the historic context of Agriculture and Rural Life (1830-1940) of New Castle County (De Cunzo and Garcia 1992). Within this context, the general area is most likely to contain sites within three of the established time of regional history periods (De Cunzo and Catts 1990): Industrialization and Capitalization (1830-1880) and Urbanization and Suburbanization (1880-1940); however, earlier sites; perhaps dating to the later half of Transformation from Colony to State (1770-1830); may also be present. Historic site expectancy types in the general project area include several property types. In addition to domestic sites such as farmsteads; community sites such as churches and schools, the area may also contain small commercial sites such as mills, shops, inns, and taverns that would have serviced the area.

Test pits were hand-excavated and the soils recovered from these excavations were screened through 1/4-inch mesh. In consultation with the DelDOT, laboratory analysis of recovered material was limited to basic processing and inventorying.

D. Results of the Phase I Archaeological Survey

Although long stretches of the project APE have indeed been subjected to severe modern subsurface disturbance (i.e., large-scale construction, utility placement), test excavation revealed that much of the project APE still possesses a relatively intact soil stratigraphy comprised of a remnant plow zone horizon underlain with intact sterile subsoils. Interestingly, artifacts were recovered from the plow zone horizon within the project APE with notable frequency.

All artifact-bearing areas encountered by test excavations within the Choptank Road project APE were evaluated based on the Department of the Interior Regulations 36 CFR Part 60.4: National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation. All areas examined were evaluated under Criterion D.

Although many of recovered artifacts were concluded to be remnants of random historic plow scatter or materials associated with modern roadside debris, for seventeen locations, it was concluded the recovered artifacts were representative of discrete site areas. The locations of these seventeen site areas are presented in **Figure 3**. **Table 1** presents a summary of the identified site areas. Registration of these site areas with the Delaware State Museums and DESHPO are currently in progress.

As noted in **Table 1**, the project APE contains both historic and Native American archaeological site areas. In addition to the subsurface/surface remains of several nineteenth century domestic sites at various locations along Choptank Road, these sites also include the subsurface remains of a nineteenth century schoolhouse and the archaeological remains of several Native American occupation sites. While the majority of the artifacts were recovered from plow zone soils, at some sites, subsurface truncated cultural features were encountered beneath the plow zone. Such occurrences strongly suggest that other intact subsurface cultural features or cultural soil horizons are still present within the project APE.

Table 1

Summary of Identified Archeological Sites

Area	Location	Length (linear ft.)	Temporal/Functional Contexts and Site Description	Recommendations for additional work within current project APE *
1	West side of Choptank Rd. 1500-1700 ft. south of Bethel Church Rd.	200 ft.	<i>Native American, temporal context unknown</i> Site consists of a thin scatter of Native American artifacts. May be field (slope) wash from interior portions of field west of the APE. <i>Recovered artifacts: <5 flakes</i>	No
2	West side of Choptank Rd. 2500-2800 ft. south of Bethel Church Rd.	300 ft.	<i>Historic, mid- to late 19th century</i> May be associated with the B. T. Biggs House on opposite side of Choptank Rd. According to historic mapping and local informants, another building once stood on the property along the edge of pavement. <i>Recovered artifacts: brick fragments, nail fragments, brass spigot/cock, redware sherds</i>	Yes In this portion of the project corridor, the APE may extend beyond 40 feet off of the edge of pavement
3A 3B 3C	Both sides of Choptank Rd. 400-1600 ft. north of Back Creek	1200 ft.	<i>Native American (3A, 3C): Woodland I</i> <i>Historic (3B): mid-19th to ea. 20th century</i> Site contains a Native American component and archaeological remains of a mid-19 th - ea. 20 th century schoolhouse, Schoolhouse #58. Schoolhouse is depicted on Rea and Price (1849), Beers (1861), Hopkins (1881), and Baist (1893). A subsurface feature was encountered beneath the plow zone in the vicinity of the schoolhouse. <i>Recovered artifacts: historic: shell-edged pearlware, clay marble, molded bottle glass, window glass. Large quantities of brick fragments and late 19th century domestic debris noted on surface.</i> <i>Native American: 1 quartz flake, 1 quartz flake tool (scraper), 2 grit and crushed rock tempered ceramic sherd (prob. Hell Island), 1 FCR fragment, 1 possible hammerstone. FCR and shatter noted during surface inspection</i>	Yes In this portion of the project corridor, the APE may extend beyond 40 feet off of the edge of pavement

* Unless otherwise noted, the limits of the current APE is estimated to be 25 feet off of the edge of pavement.
Unless otherwise noted, the Beers (1868) notation is given for references to structures shown on historic mapping.

Table 1

Summary of Identified Archeological Sites, cont.

Area	Location	Length (linear ft.)	Temporal/Functional Contexts and Site Description	Recommendations for additional work within current project APE *
4	East side of Choptank Rd. 2400-2800 feet south of Church town Rd.	400 ft.	<i>Historic; mid- to late 19th century</i> Site consists of a small concentration of historic domestic debris. May be associated with "J Clayton" depicted on historic mapping. <i>Recovered artifacts: whiteware, redware, brick, nails, aqua window glass, aqua bottle fragments.</i>	Yes
5A 5B	East side of Choptank Rd. 400-1200 ft. south of Old Schoolhouse Rd.	800 ft.	<i>Historic, mid- to late 19th century</i> Site contains a series large foundation-like stones capped with concrete. May be associated with "J. Clayton" depicted on historic mapping.	Yes
6 7 8	East side of Choptank Rd. 400-2200 ft. south of Old Schoolhouse Rd.	1800 ft.	<i>Native American, temporal context unknown</i> <i>Historic; mid-19th to ea. 20th century</i> Several small plow zone scatters of historic and Native American artifacts. Several possible historic landscaping features encountered, as well possible structural remains. Historic material may be associated with Area 5 (see above). Native American materials may be field (slope) wash from field located east of the project APE associated with <i>Recovered artifacts:</i> <i>Historic: small metal fragments, redware, whiteware, window glass</i> <i>Native American: <5 flakes</i>	Possibly

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Unless otherwise noted, the Beers (1868) notation is given for references to structures shown on historic mapping.

Table 1

Summary of Identified Archeological Sites, cont.

Area	Location	Length (linear ft.)	Temporal/Functional Contexts and Site Description	Recommendations for additional work within current project APE *
9 10	East side of Choptank Rd. 1400-2200 ft. south of Bohemia Mill Rd.	800 ft.	Historic, mid- 19 th to ea. 20 th century Site consists of thin plow zone scatter of historic domestic artifacts. Historic component may be associated with "J Callahan" shown on historic mapping. Higher frequencies of historic artifacts were noted toward center of field east of the project APE Recovered artifacts: nails, redware, whiteware, creamware, porcelain, brick fragments	Yes, but core area of historic component seems to be located toward center of field east of APE
11	West side of Choptank Rd. 1500-1900 ft. south of Bohemia Mill Rd.	400 ft.	Historic, late 19 th to early 20 th century Site consists of a high quantity of late 19 th -ea. 20 th century debris. May be destroyed/disturbed remains or demolition refuse, of 2 structures attributed to "M. D. Wilson" on Baist (1893). Recovered artifacts: nails, whiteware, milk glass, brick, ceramic sewer pipe fragments.	Possibly but site may be already destroyed.
12	East side of Choptank Rd. 2500-2800 ft. north of Sharpe Ln.	300 ft.	Native American, temporal context unknown Site consists of thin plow zone scatter of Native American artifacts Recovered artifacts: 10 flakes	Yes
13	West side of Choptank Rd. 2200-2500 ft. north of Sharpe Ln.	300 ft.	Native American, temporal context unknown Site consists of thin plow zone scatter of Native American artifacts. May be associated with Area 12 Recovered artifacts: 1 flake, 1 shatter	No
14A 14B	Both sides of Choptank Rd. From Sharpe Ln. to 300 ft. south of Sharpe Ln.	300 ft.	Historic, mid- to late 19 th century Site consists of high concentration of historic domestic artifacts. May be associated with "T.R.H." shown on historic mapping. Subsurface feature encountered beneath plow zone. Recovered artifacts: nails, whiteware, aqua window glass, large brick fragments	Yes

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Unless otherwise noted, the Beers (1868) notation is given for references to structures shown on historic mapping.

Table 1

Summary of Identified Archeological Sites, cont.

Area	Location	Length (linear ft.)	Temporal/Functional Contexts and Site Description	Recommendations for additional work within current project APE *
15A 15B	West side of Choptank Rd. 900-1100 ft. south of Sharpe Ln.	200 ft.	<i>Historic, mid- to late 19th century</i> Site consists of thin scatter of historic domestic artifacts. May be associated with "T.R.H." on historic mapping.	No Unless 14A, 14B extends further south
16A 16B	Both sides of Choptank Rd., but mainly on west side 500-1300 ft. north of Bunker Hill Rd.	800 ft.	<i>Historic, mid- to late 19th century</i> Site consists of high concentration of historic domestic artifacts. May be associated with 2 structures attributed to "T.M." on historic mapping. Subsurface feature encountered beneath plow zone. <i>Recovered artifacts: nails, whiteware, redware, stoneware, cut glass, bone, metal fragments, aqua window glass, brick fragments, 2 flakes</i>	Yes
17	South side of Bunker Hill Rd. 600-300 ft. west of Choptank Rd.	300 ft.	<i>Native American, temporal context unknown., but may be ea.</i> <i>Woodland I (Late Archaic)</i> <i>Historic, late 19th century?</i> Site consists of landscape anomaly on west side of a small stream. Anomaly is a large mound with some historic debris. Remnants of a crude driveway runs alongside the mound from Bunker Hill Rd. May be associated with former racetrack that was south of project APE. Thin scatter of Native American artifacts along east side of small intermittent stream <i>Recovered artifacts: Historic: several large brick fragments (some are hand-formed), cut nails, whiteware, redware, shell, bone, metal fragments, bottle and window glass</i> <i>Native American: 2 flakes, 1 piece of steatite, FCR</i>	Yes

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Unless otherwise noted, the Beers (1868) notation is given for references to structures shown on historic mapping.

Figure 3: Locations of Archaeological Site Areas

E. Summary and Recommendations

For most of the sites, the portion of the site contained in the current project APE is minimal. In such instances, no further testing within the current project APE is recommended because it is likely that such work would only result in the acquisition of redundant information. However, the current project APE crosses the "core" area of at least seven of the identified sites. At these locations, formal archaeological studies beyond the Phase I Location and Identification level are recommended within the current project APE.

It is important to recognize that the need and extent of additional archaeological studies at any of the identified sites will be contingent upon modifications to the current design scheme and any subsequent changes to the current project APE. At a minimum, any site that would be subjected to impact by the proposed project would require formal Phase II Evaluation Level studies. In addition to formal delineation of the site's vertical boundaries, Phase II studies would be conducted to examine the site's archaeological integrity, discern datasets represented at the site, and assess National Register eligibility. Phase II studies would also identify any appropriate mitigation efforts for the site.

Based on the results of the Phase I Archaeological Survey, it is recommended that thorough coordination be undertaken with the DelDOT and DESHPO in order to address the relation of the identified sites to the proposed project and to coordinate any additional archaeological studies that may be warranted.